

Site Name

Region: 6

INFRA or Forest Site ID 32311

Whitewater Trailhead

Forest: Willamette

District: Detroit



Amenities- Must have all

- ☒ Trash Cans
- ☒ Designated Parking
- ☒ Permanent Toilet Facilities
- ☒ Interpretive Sign, Exhibit, or Kiosk
- ☒ Picnic Tables
- ☒ Reasonable Visitor Protection (Security)

Site Type: Trailhead

REA Fee Type Standard Amenity

Change Summary

Action Requested:

New Fee

Proposed Fee: \$5.00

Start Date: 6/1/2007

Expected Annual Occupancy (%) 20

Additional Fee Structure:

Recreation Passes Honored
Self-service \$5 pay station

Current Situation

Date of Last Fee Increase:

Current Fee \$0

Current Annual Occupancy (%) 20

Additional Fee Structure:

Financial Information

Annual O&M: \$3,450

Deferred Maint. Backlog \$5,000

Start-Up Costs \$1,000

Current Revenue: \$0

Predicted Revenue: \$3,940

Difference in revenue associated with fee change: \$3,940

Planned Accomplishments

- ☐ Increase Hours of Operation
- ☐ Improve facilities / Services
- ☒ Reduce Deferred Maintenance
- ☒ Maintain Site to Standard

Planned Accomplishments and Methods for Informing the Public:

Fees go toward maintaining the site to standard including trail maintenance. In the future, fees can help address deferred maintenance or be leveraged with other funds. Deferred maintenance includes trailhead and trail reconstruction. Methods for informing the public about accomplishments include: onsite posters and publishing in the annual Forest Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Report.

Reason for Changing Fee

This site was previously in the fee demonstration program but was eliminated with the enactment of REA. Since then, amenities are being added to accommodate visitor needs and use at this popular site, and to help reduce human waste issues in the wilderness area. A new toilet was installed in 2006, and benches and garbage service are provided. Picnic tables and a fee tube will be installed at the trailhead prior to implementing a fee. The fee would help recoup the cost of operating and maintaining the facilities at the trailhead and trail maintenance. Indirectly it would help offset costs in the overall recreation program so that services and facilities can be provided at other sites including those with no fees.

- ☐ Align fee to local market
- ☐ Inflationary Increase
- ☐ Outcome of RSFMP Process
- ☒ Increase / Improve Service
- ☒ Add Amenity

Level of Complexity:

Low Complexity

Results of Not Implementing Fee Change

Cost of operation and maintenance of the site would not be recouped. Limited appropriations would fund facility and trail maintenance but may be at a reduced level. It would have a ripple effect to other recreation sites or trails including those with no fees. Overall deferred maintenance would continue to increase, resulting in reduced maintenance, services or abandoning trails. Volunteers and partnerships are an integral component of the recreation/trail program, but do not entirely sustain these programs without the help of other funding strategies. The NWFP program helps maintain those sites with higher level of amenities.

- ☒ Reduce Season or Service
- ☐ Eliminate Season or Service
- ☐ Decommission Site
- ☐ Close Site

Public Participation

Have the following tasks been accomplished? ☒ Yes

New Fee Minimum Tasks

- Six months advance notice in Federal Register
- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)
- Give people an opportunity to review project plans (if completed) (from Interagency Federal Register Notice)

Fee Change Minimum Tasks

- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)

Other Public Participation Tasks

Beginning June 2006, announcements for public comment regarding the proposal to add Whitewater Trailhead into the Recreation Fee Program was posted at the lookout road entrance, at the Detroit Ranger District visitor information center and on the Willamette National Forest Website. Federal legislators were briefed about 2007 Willamette NF recreation fee program proposals on 5/30/06 and 7/14/06. A Federal Register was published on 11/29/06 (Volume 71, Number 229). A news release was sent out on January 8, 2007 to the local media resulting with two articles published; one in the Salem area Statesman Journal on 2/25/07 and another in the Mill City Independent Press on 1/24/07. A legal notice was published in the Eugene Register-Guard Newspaper on 2/6/07.

Public Participation Results

No public comments were received. The public was accustomed to having a recreation pass at this site up until 2004 and had high compliance.

Brief Description of Project Area

Whitewater Trailhead is located off of Highway 22, about 68 miles east of Salem, Oregon on the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest. It is within a 1 to 2 hour drive of the Willamette Valley and Portland Metropolitan areas. The trail provides access to the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness and Jefferson Park, a sensitive sub-alpine meadow with several lakes and Mt. Jefferson as a majestic backdrop. Because Mt. Jefferson is close to population centers and the Whitewater Trail is a relatively short hike, the area is commonly used for day trips. Whitewater trailhead is one of four high use trails that enter the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. The other three trailheads are currently in the fee program. The more popular trailheads have a higher level of amenities and trail maintenance. Thirteen trailheads that access the west side of Mt. Jefferson Wilderness remain fee free, including three other trails that reach Jefferson Park. Facilities are being added to provide for visitor service and convenience, and help reduce human waste issues in the wilderness area.